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Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

**Poliomyelitis Traced
to Public Milk Supply.**

Milk has often been suspected as a possible factor in the transmission of poliomyelitis. Little definite proof of its spread through this vehicle has been available, however. The New York State Department of Health now offers evidence that milk was a factor in an outbreak of ten cases of poliomyelitis in New York State. The report is reprinted here as a matter of interest to all health officers:

During the third week of December, six cases of poliomyelitis developed in the city of Cortland which has a population of approximately 15,000. All of the cases found by Dr. A. C. Knapp, health officer, had consumed milk obtained from the same dealer. This dealer furnished milk regularly to the families in which four of the cases occurred, the fifth drank it three times daily at a restaurant. The sixth case was discovered to have consumed some of the milk at a gathering which he attended six days before the onset of his illness.

Prior to this there had been three cases reported in Cortland during 1925, the onsets of the cases being given as October 7 in all three. Despite their almost synchronous onsets, these three cases each took milk from a different source and it was not possible to discover anything else in common.

On December 1, seven days before the onset of the first case of this apparently milk-borne series, a boy, 16 years old, who was working on the dairy farm where the milk concerned was produced, became sick with fever, headache, pain in the back and some diarrhea. He vomited on December 11. He continued at work, milking from eight to ten of the twenty cows on this dairy, though he noticed his hands were growing progressively weaker and that he had some pain and tenderness in his left arm. On December 11 he was definitely paralyzed in his entire left extremity and his right deltoid muscle, but succeeded in milking three cows with his right hand before his condition was noticed. He was immediately

taken to his home in the city of Cortland, where he was isolated and subsequently cared for. In addition to the symptoms mentioned he is said to have had slight retraction of the head but no resistance to anterior flexion of the spine. His fever was reported as high (over 104° F.) when seen by the physician on December 11. This boy, in addition to milking cows, carried the milk to the cooler, and also assisted in filling the cans from the cooler, thus having an opportunity to infect practically all of the milk produced on the farm.

The onsets of the subsequent cases were December 14 (1), December 16 (2), December 18 (2), December 19 (1). Two of these subsequent cases died from bulbar involvement, one on the second and the other on the fourth day after onset. There were no other cases in the city until December 25, when three more cases developed—one in a child, age 7, who consumed the suspected milk at home; one in a boy, age 19, whose mother worked in a restaurant which bought thirty-five quarts of this milk daily; the third child has no history of contact with any of the other cases, did not consume the suspected milk and is regarded as an extremely doubtful nonparalyzed case.

An investigation at the dairy failed to discover any evidence of paralysis or illness among the animals except that five of the twenty cows reacted to the tuberculin test on December 14. About 215 quarts of unpasteurized milk were sold from this dairy to a dealer in Cortland whose total daily output was 240 quarts. The total daily supply for the city is approximately 5700 quarts.

The cases, which varied in age from 15 months to 22 years, were not located in the same section of the city and their social relations were extremely tenuous or non-existent.



"I believe that within the limitations of its policy the United States has co-operated in every way in solving the grave problems confronting Europe and lending encouragement and assistance in this economic reconstruction.

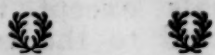
"The United States has never turned a deaf ear to the call of distress, nor has it ever refused assistance when its aid has been sought in a way which would not involve us in the political controversies and domestic affairs of other countries."—Frank B. Kellogg, Secretary of State.

Barbers Must Provide Clean Towels.

A Radio Talk Given From Station KGO.

This talk is addressed primarily to men, but it may possibly be of interest to women, since at the present time, they too are patrons of barbers. In California it is against the law for a barber to use other than a clean towel upon a customer. The importance of using a clean towel upon the face of a freshly-shaved customer is clear, for if the skin on the face be irritated there is more favorable opportunity for development of infection. Even if the patron receives only a hair trim or a shingle bob he is entitled to have a clean towel used upon his person. Most barbers have a wholesome respect for this law but a few of them apparently have not heard of it. If you find a barber who does not use a fresh, clean towel for each customer, report the matter to the local health officer or to the State Board of Health.

This law, furthermore, applies not only to barbers. It applies also to the following: persons, firms or corporations conducting, operating or having charge of any hotel, restaurant, factory, store, office building, school, public hall, railroad train, railway station, boat or any other place, room or conveyance. This act is known as the "common towel" law and the definition of common use, when applied to a towel, means its use by or for more than one person without being laundered by a process involving exposure to boiling water or steam between consecutive uses. Not common decency alone but safeguarding of individual health demands that clean towels be used in barber shops and other places. Californians have a legal right in the matter and if they stand up for their rights they will always receive clean towel service.



Child Welfare In League Of Nations.

An American woman, Miss Julia Lathrop, first chief of the Children's Bureau, has been appointed to serve in connection with the child welfare committee of the League of Nations. Miss Lathrop is one of three American experts who will advise the committee—the other two being Miss Charlotte Whitton of the Canadian Council on Child Welfare, and Dr. Ismael Valdes of Chile, president of the Pan-American Child Welfare Congress. Grace Abbott, Chief of the Children's Bureau, represents the United States on the committee in an unofficial capacity.

The Fight For Better Health.

"Little black figures in rows.
Little crooked black figures.
Numberless columns
To add,
To distribute in square little spaces.
Strutting black insects,
Impostors
Who juggle our tragedies.
'Vital statistics!'
Marriages,
Babies dead,
Broken lives,
Men gone mad,
Labor and crime
All treated in bulk with the tears wiped off."

This bit of free verse by an unknown modern poet probably possesses little merit as a poem but in its attempt to humanize long, formidable columns of figures, it is admirable. The average individual finds little of interest in masses of figures concerning the prevalence of disease. A single case of illness in his own family is naturally a matter of vital importance to him. He is unmindful of the fact that tables of figures showing the prevalence of disease in the community represent the accounting of many cases of illness in many families and that, considered in the mass, these statistics point the way to improved methods of treatment and control of disease. It is easy to follow the daily fluctuations in the selling price of stocks, bonds, agricultural products and other commodities.



Orange County Health Department Stands Alone.

The Orange County Health Department began, January first, operating on its own annual budget of \$31,000, under appropriations made by the county board of supervisors. This county health department was the first full-time county unit to be organized in this state by means of support extended by the International Health Board and the California State Board of Health. It began work under a budget of \$10,000. The growth of the organization, its extension in taking over the work of small municipalities within the county and the sound development of its activities constitute an enviable record. The supervisors of Orange County, the health officer, Dr. V. G. Presson, members of his staff and the people of Orange County are to be congratulated upon the generous support given to the maintenance of their community health.

California Activities Under The Sheppard-Towner Act.

California accepted the provisions of the Maternity and Infancy Act (Sheppard-Towner) in 1923, placing its administration under the Bureau of Child Hygiene of the State Board of Health.

The activities of this bureau in past years have been varied. Such accomplishments as the midwife survey, the formation of permanent health centers, the aiding of counties to secure public health nursing service, and the inauguration of the preschool drive do not need detailed mention. All of these, except the midwife survey, are being continued and are growing steadily. The nurses giving part time to maternity and infancy work under this bureau now number twenty-two, and are distributed all over the state, largely in the rural sections. Fifty-six children's health centers have been established and in the two preschool drives held nearly thirteen thousand children, entering the first grade, have been examined. The number of counties participating in this campaign to interest parents in the necessity of physical soundness of the school entrant is increasing and over forty are organizing this year, double the number in 1924.

The present staff consists of the director and one other* physician, both pediatricists, and three public health nurses. During 1925 an effort was made to fill all requests for speakers on child hygiene subjects, coming from the various groups interested in this subject. Approximately ten thousand people were reached in this way. These were mainly mothers of little children and were usually in groups sufficiently small to allow of discussion and questioning. Mothers' study outlines covering a simple but comprehensive study of the growth and requirements of the child up to six years of age have been published, and study circles are being formed in various sections of the state.

Literature regarding the care of the child from prenatal life to school age is being distributed in increasing quantities. This is distributed through physicians, organized health centers, public health nurses, home demonstration agents, and directly to individuals requesting it. Prenatal letters to the amount of 8678 sets have been sent out and at present over 500 of these letters are being mailed each month, each one on special request. Nurses employed by the bureau have been of aid to nearly 1500 prenatal and post-natal cases.

At the last session of the legislature, the inspection and licensing of maternity homes was placed under the State Board of Health and they, in turn, have delegated this bureau to carry on the work. The law stipulates that any place taking maternity cases for hire must be licensed. A large number of such maternity homes are conducted by practical nurses who take a small number of patients into their own homes. Inspection of these institutions and the insistence that they comply with certain minimum demands in regard to cleanliness, fire hazard and care of patients is a very necessary part of the protection of the health of mothers and infants. It is becoming increasingly evident that the maternity inspectors operating under this bureau are of real aid to many of the less well-trained women operating the smaller maternity homes.

Throughout this work, the aim has been to especially be of aid to the rural mother, who has not the usual facilities at the disposal of the urban woman, and to place modern hygienic knowledge at her disposal, and at least a measure of trained aid within her reach when emergency arises. It is believed that all efforts at education in prevention of causes of maternal and infant sickness will be in the long run rewarded by a finer citizenship for the state and nation.



Direct sunlight prevents rickets. So does
cod liver oil. Children prefer sunshine.



American Legion Does Child Welfare Work.

Care of the needy children of world war veterans is the object of the Children's Welfare Division of the American Legion, created by the Legion at its sixth annual convention. It is the policy of the division to care for the children in their own homes or in supervised foster homes, using, so far as possible, the facilities provided by the state or local agencies already existing. Temporary care is provided in Legion "billets."



The child is the state, because in the child is the hope of the state and wrapped up in the child are the individual hopes and interests of every citizen of the state. There is no more important work than that of providing proper environment and living conditions in the home in which the child starts its life career. As Eugene Field has so well said: "It's right that the old should die, but that a little harmless child Should miss the joys of life and love, that can't be reconciled."—Indiana Health Bulletin.

MORBIDITY.***Diphtheria.**

123 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 39, San Francisco 15, Los Angeles County 6, San Diego 6, Orange County 6, Santa Ana 6, Oakland 5, Alhambra 5, Corona 3, Santa Barbara 3, Stockton 2, Glendale 1, Alameda 3, Placer County 1, Salinas 1, Sacramento 2, Santa Cruz 4, Berkeley 2, San Jose 1, Fresno County 3, Bakersfield 2, Healdsburg 1, Kern County 2, Sacramento County 2, Marysville 1, Kings County 1.

Measles.

62 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 9, Los Angeles County 5, San Francisco 10, Santa Paula 16, San Fernando 1, Maywood 1, Long Beach 4, Oakland 2, San Diego County 1, Monterey Park 1, San Diego 3, San Bernardino 2, Santa Barbara 1, Fillmore 3, Ventura County 3.

Scarlet Fever.

193 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 49, Los Angeles County 24, San Francisco 19, San Diego 14, Alameda 8, Long Beach 8, Stockton 5, Orange County 4, Sacramento 2, San Diego County 1, Ontario 2, Berkeley 1, Turlock 2, Culver City 2, Ventura County 2, Santa Clara County 4, Butte County 4, Imperial 2, Monterey County 2, Kern County 2, San Joaquin County 4, Alhambra 1, Pomona 2, Fullerton 1, Stanislaus County 3, Colusa County 1, Santa Ana 1, Chico 1, Riverside 1, Fresno County 4, Bakersfield 1, Hanford 1, San Jose 4, Redding 1, Oakland 2, Los Gatos 1, San Bernardino County 2, Glendale 1, Anaheim 2, Santa Barbara 1, Corona 1.

*From reports received on February 1st and 2d for week ending January 30th.

Smallpox.

86 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 40, Los Angeles County 12, Oakland 7, Placer County 6, Alameda 1, Sacramento 2, Riverside 1, Long Beach 1, Sacramento County 1, Huntington Park 1, Orange 2, Richmond 2, Riverside County 1, San Jose 1, Mendocino County 1, San Francisco 3, Alameda County 1, Merced County 1, Marysville 2.

Typhoid Fever.

7 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 3, Contra Costa County 1, Pittsburg 1, Long Beach 1, California 1.

Whooping Cough.

53 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 13, Oakland 8, San Diego 6, Monterey County 5, Orange County 5, Santa Barbara 8, San Bernardino 1, San Fernando 1, Long Beach 4, Burlingame 1, South Gate 1.

Epidemic Meningitis.

11 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: San Diego Naval Training Station 7, Los Angeles 2, Los Angeles County 2.

Leprosy.

Tracy reported one case of leprosy.

Poliomyelitis.

4 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: San Francisco 1, Oakland 1, Salinas 1, San Leandro 1.

Epidemic Encephalitis.

Los Angeles reported one case of epidemic encephalitis.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS.

Disease	1926				1925			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Jan. 30 received by Feb. 2	Week ending			Reports for week ending Jan. 31 received by Feb. 3
	Jan. 9	Jan. 16	Jan. 23		Jan. 10	Jan. 17	Jan. 24	
Anthrax.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Botulism.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chickenpox.....	313	321	292	270	346	360	283	372
Diphtheria.....	90	97	124	123	142	145	175	143
Dysentery (Bacillary).....	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Epidemic Encephalitis.....	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	0
Epidemic Meningitis.....	5	4	8	11	0	2	1	4
Gonorrhoea.....	112	121	112	62	118	74	163	100
Influenza.....	466	683	1174	755	38	25	56	72
Leprosy.....	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Malaria.....	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Measles.....	44	45	67	62	37	51	48	41
Mumps.....	299	227	285	186	121	188	160	162
Pneumonia (lobar).....	129	95	102	92	98	90	94	91
Poliomyelitis.....	1	1	1	4	4	2	4	5
Scarlet Fever.....	173	158	188	193	163	174	180	160
Smallpox.....	81	172	102	86	123	198	194	153
Syphilis.....	147	105	100	113	197	111	153	106
Tuberculosis.....	170	196	197	118	197	289	171	162
Typhoid Fever.....	16	16	11	7	23	6	12	6
Whooping Cough.....	109	126	55	53	139	145	181	147
Totals.....	2157	2368	2818	2137	1750	1861	1877	1725

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